

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION**

3443 Routier Road, Suite A, Sacramento, California 95827

PUBLIC HEARING
concerning

**CONDITIONAL WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
AND
NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR
DISCHARGES FROM IRRIGATED LANDS
WITHIN THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGION**

On 5 December 2002, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) approved a Resolution that adopted a Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands (2002 Conditional Waiver) pursuant to California Water Code Section 13269 and approved a Negative Declaration prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Discharges from irrigated lands include surface water discharges, operational spills, subsurface drainage and stormwater runoff. Irrigated lands include nurseries and managed wetlands as well as most land used in production agriculture.

The Regional Board will consider two agenda items regarding Conditional Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements. These are:

1. Consideration of Rescission of the 2002 Conditional Waiver in order to resolve allegations of bias, conflict of interest, and procedural irregularities
2. Consideration of Alternatives to Regulation of Discharges from Irrigated Lands, including continuing the use of, adoption of revisions to, rescission or readoption of the 2002 Conditional Waiver, or directing staff to take related actions

If the Regional Board rescinds the 2002 Conditional Waiver and Negative Declaration as noticed in Agenda in Item No. 1, above, the Regional Board will proceed to Agenda Item No. 2 where it may:

- Take No Action
- Re-adopt the 2002 Conditional Waiver
- Direct staff to revise the 2002 Conditional Waiver and/or prepare and circulate a new CEQA document for later consideration
- Adopt the revised Conditional Waiver and modified CEQA document prepared for the April 2003 Regional Board meeting
- Adopt a revised Conditional Waiver and CEQA documents that consider written and oral comments received up to and including the July 10/11 Regional Board hearing
- Direct staff to re-circulate for additional public comment, and for consideration at a later Regional Board hearing, a Conditional Waiver and CEQA documents that were prepared based on comments received up through 10, 11 July 2003 Regional Board hearing
- Direct staff to take other related actions

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CONDITIONAL WAIVER OF
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WITHIN THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

-2-

If the Regional Board does not rescind the 2002 Conditional Waiver and CEQA documents as noticed in Agenda Item No. 1, above, the Regional Board may consider the same alternatives listed for Agenda Item No. 2, above, with the exception of readoption of the 2002 Conditional Waiver and CEQA documents.

A public hearing concerning this matter will be held during the Regional Board meeting, which is scheduled for:

DATE: **10/11 July 2003**
TIME: **8:30 A.M. 10 July 2003**
PLACE: Cal EPA Building Central Valley Auditorium
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Persons wishing to comment on these Agenda items must submit such comments in writing to the Regional Board no later than close of business on **7 July 2003**. Written comments submitted after **7 July 2003** will not be accepted and will not be incorporated into the administrative record unless allowed by the Regional Board. Written comments should focus on the new issues related to the proposed July agenda documents. Please do not repeat previously submitted comments regarding this matter.

All interested persons may speak at the Regional Board hearing, and are expected to orally summarize their written comments. Oral testimony will be limited in time by the Regional Board Chair.

Anyone having questions on this matter should contact Bill Croyle at (916) 255-3111. The documents may be inspected and copied at the Regional Board's office at 3443 Routier Road, Suite A, Sacramento, California, weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. by appointment. These documents are also available on the Regional Board web site at the following URL:
<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/programs/agunit/index.html>.

The procedures governing Regional Water Board meetings may be found at Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 647 et seq. and are available upon request. Meetings before the Regional Water Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq. The procedures may be obtained by accessing http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_laws/index.html. Information on meeting and hearing procedures are also available on the Regional Board's website at http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/board_meetings/mtgprocd.html or by contacting any one of the Board's offices. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to Ms. Janice Tanaka at (916) 255-3039.

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-3-

The meeting facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Janice Tanaka at (916) 255-3039 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

/S/

JACK E. DELCONTE
Acting Assistant Executive Officer

6/23/03